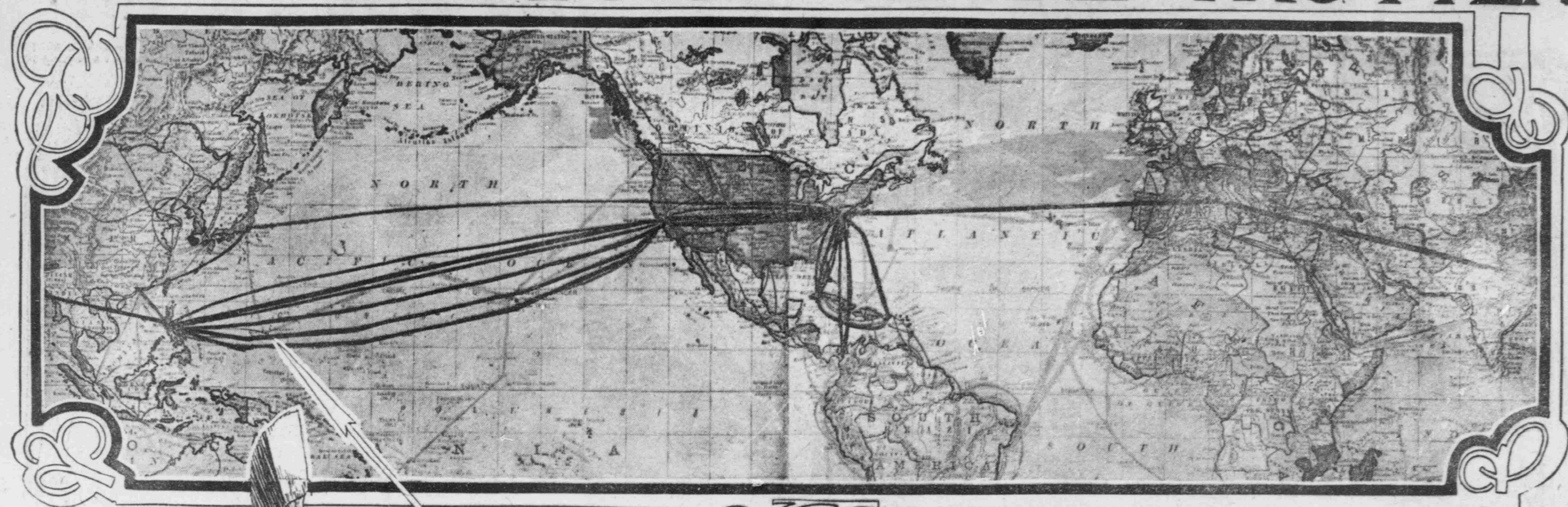


TAFT CHAMPION GLOBE TROTTER



Black Lines On Map of the World Show Route of Mr. Taft's Several International Trips; Lower Map Shows His Recent Journeys in the United States

Secretary of War Wears the Belt for Long Distance Trips On Government Business, Having Covered About 200,000 Miles on Land and Sea In Less Than Seven Years, And Is Still Going.

BIG jewelry, silk, and other commercial houses of New York and some of the European capitals send traveling representatives out into all countries of the globe—their “drummers.” Many such men are almost constantly traveling and occasionally one is surprised to learn of the wonderful distances some of them have covered. That is commercial business. But when it comes to diplomatic or internal affairs of nations, few men follow the occupation of “official travelers” to any remarkable extent. At least, few had traveled extensively in foreign lands for the American Government till the advent of William H. Taft, the Secretary of War.

Here's a Man Who "Has Traveled."

Secretary Taft, at this day, after having been in the Government service not quite seven years, may truly be spoken of as a man who has traveled. If a man makes a trip around the world, with side trips whose distances would equal three other trips around the world, besides making trips within the confines of his own country that would equal at least two more trips around the globe—and all this within seven years, the small boy, in his characteristic vernacular, might well remark, “That's going some.”

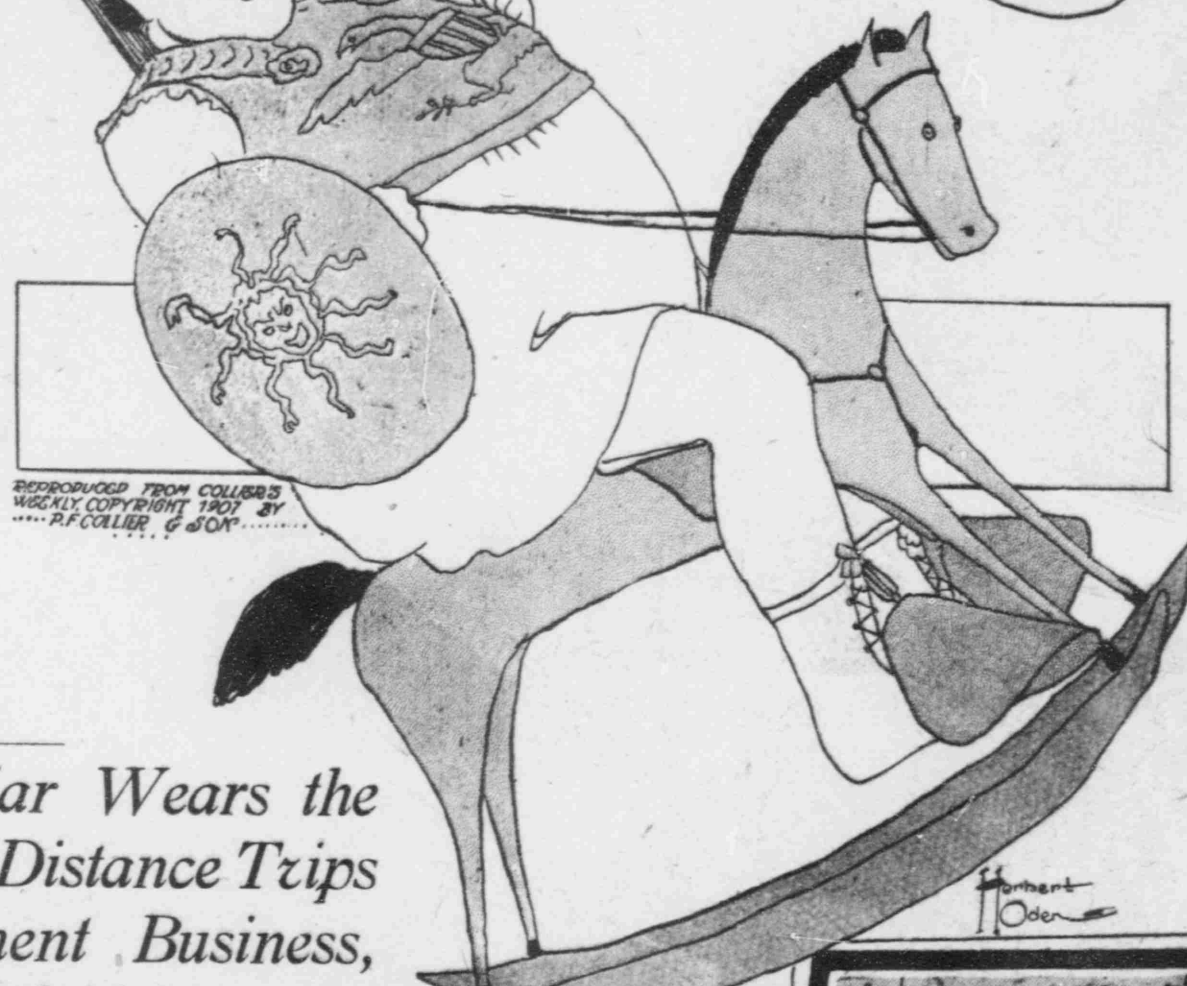
All Records Gone to Smash.

And so it is. There is no other record in this country, and perhaps in no other country, to equal it. Not only as to the number of long trips he has made, but the greatly varied nature of his missions, is the official career of the Secretary of War unique. It is Taft, “Ambassador Globe Trotter,” and he has fairly won the title by traveling fully 200,000 miles in and out of his country, on official or political business.

His First Trip to the Philippines.

SECRETARY TAFT was leading a quiet and peaceful career in Cincinnati, when, as plain Judge Taft, he was picked off of the Federal bench by President McKinley, and sent out to Manila to put the screws in the lid on the Philippines. Things were boiling out Manila way, and a big man was needed. Others had tried the lid, but it took a man of Judge Taft's physical and mental weight to

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of these trips he came back by way of Rome, and thus his real travels began. Before that he had merely gone out to the Philippines and back; after that, he had made it around the globe and was a traveled man.

Surprised at His Own Record.

No one, before this article was written—not even Secretary Taft himself—had any definite idea of the immense total distance he had traveled in these seven years. He was even surprised when it was suggested that possibly he had traveled 100,000 miles altogether; and his private secretary was amazed to find that the distances of his chief's foreign travels alone in seven years would equal fully 100,000 miles. Then there were the hundred or more important trips that had been made to every corner of the country. These have come since Mr. Taft became Secretary of War, in 1893. While most of them have been political journeys, on which he took part in different campaigns, several of them were on business confined strictly to the War Department.

It is a surprisingly interesting record. Go back to the beginning, when the man who may become President was given the difficult task of administration in a new and hazardous field. From Cincinnati to Manila is approximately 8,500 miles. After serving as head of the Philippine commission, he returned in 1902, and came to Washington to confer with President Roosevelt. That trip covered approximately 9,000 miles. Then from

turn from his Philippine trip, adding 8,000 more to his list. In the summer of 1905, the Philippine Dattoes and others welcomed him back to the islands, at the head of the famous “Cupid's Junket.” That time he visited Japan and points in China, which made fully 20,000 miles for the round trip.

Some of His Political Trips.

Already he had “gone some,” but then he made a few of his long political trips, on one of which he made the famous Akron, Ohio, speech. In February, 1906, he made another swing out as far as St. Louis, and shortly afterward saved the President a trip at the celebration of an anniversary at Tuskegee Institute by going himself.

It is scarcely fair, however, to single out a single trip on which the War Secretary went in place of the President, for he has made so many such trips as personal official and political ambassador. Not only has he gone out through the highways and byways preaching the gospel of President Roosevelt, but he has addressed conventions and big commercial organizations as the Administration's mouthpiece.

And so the first part of last year passed, with no official foreign journey or even domestic journey of consequence, since the Panama trip that followed the one to the Philippines. Then came his second memorable political speech—not quite as sensational as that at Akron, perhaps, but one in which he presented in a most inter-

esting manner some views known to be held at the White House. That was at the opening of the North Carolina State Republican convention at Greensboro, July 9.

so the summer passed, with the Secretary going somewhere to make a speech or writing a magazine article on one of his pet insular projects every few days, till the new situation loomed up in Cuba, and then he began plowing through ocean waves again. His trip to Cuba and return made about 3,000 miles, while this spring his trip to Panama, Cuba, Porto Rico, and return has aggregated about 5,500 miles. His journey to the Philippines to open the new Legislative Assembly next fall will mean fully 15,000 miles more. If politics does not consume too much of the Secretary's time he may yet carry out his desire to visit Alaska and inspect the army posts there, which would make about 3,000 miles more.

In the meantime, after his return from Cuba last fall, the Secretary made an important speech-making trip from Baltimore to Idaho, speaking in the Western States just before election day. Then followed a long tour of inspection of army posts for the purpose of determining their suitability of forming brigade posts. This trip led from Fort D. A. Russell, near Cheyenne, Wyo., to Fort Robinson, near Crawford, Neb.; to Fort Sheridan, near Chicago; to Fort Leavenworth, at Leavenworth, Kan.; to Fort Riley, near Junction City, Kan.; to Fort Sill, near Lawton, O. T.; to Fort Sam Houston, at San Antonio, Tex., and thence home by way of New Orleans.

That trip was begun at Cheyenne on November 2, just after he had made his last political speech in Idaho, and was ended in Washington November 19. Aside from that there are a number of less important trips he has made up to the present time, most of them being to points not farther than New York.

In the meantime the Secretary has not sworn off traveling and it is safe to say that before he leaves the country again on the Philippine journey he will have added several thousand miles more to his list.

Mrs. Roosevelt As a Young Girl Cliff Climber

DURING a visit to Grand Manan Island, in the Bay of Fundy, I heard the following incident of Mrs. Roosevelt's girlhood:

At that time, in company with a cousin and his wife, Mrs. Roosevelt spent some weeks among the fishing folk of Grand Manan. The South Head is a precipitous cliff that drops straight into the sea. When the high tides peculiar to the Bay of Fundy are out, a narrow beach is exposed at the base of the cliff, to which visitors are in the habit of descending by means of a narrow, circuitous path. Mrs. Roosevelt and her party made this trip, but when the girl looked up at the face of the cliff it occurred to her that she would much prefer to climb it than to return by the path. Consequently, she and her cousins began the ascent of the precipice, a feat that had been accomplished but once or twice before, and then only by the hardest fishermen.

The old South Head lifts straight into the air and is almost as difficult of ascent as a polished wall. Their perilous venture once begun, however, they were forced to continue it, for the tide returned, and the sea cut them off beneath.

“I never had a more thankful moment in my life,” said old Walter McLaughlin, the lighthouse keeper, “than when I reached down and drew the young American girl over the edge of the cliff.”

It had happened that, just the day preceding my visit to the South Head, Mrs. Roosevelt's cousin, now on his second visit to Grand Manan, had called there.

“Mr. McLaughlin,” he asked, “do you remember the girl who climbed South Head years ago?”



hands are digging a big ditch as an outlet for the rest of the plantation, while Porto Rico is the new tract to southeast where the hands want to come in and sit at the same table with the others.

Although each section is in charge of a ranch or plantation boss, Taft, as all good general overseers must, finds it necessary to keep his eye on each and pay more than the Sunday afternoon off-day visit. And so he be-

comes the official globe-trotter. But he had traveled some before he became the general overseer. When he went out to boss the “back west forty” job, it was necessary for him to go into the general overseer's house to talk over the crops, how to manage the men, and so on. Also, it became necessary for him to visit some of the neighbors about line fences, the grazing of cattle, and the crowing of game cocks on Sunday mornings. On one

here he went to Rome, where he arranged for the purchase of the friar's lands, and returned to Manila, having traveled about 22,000 miles from here. Returning to Washington in 1903 to become Secretary of War he traveled the 9,000 miles over again. In the fall of that year, he went to Panama, to see about digging the big ditch. That round trip was about 4,000 miles, in round figures, and he repeated it in 1904 and again in 1905, after his re-

turning from his Philippine trip, adding 8,000 more to his list. In the summer of 1905, the Philippine Dattoes and others welcomed him back to the islands, at the head of the famous “Cupid's Junket.” That time he visited Japan and points in China, which made fully 20,000 miles for the round trip.

Jumper as Well as Trotter.

From a political speech way down in North Carolina to a talk on the canal on an island out in Lake Erie is a long jump, but the War Secretary is a jumper as well as trotter. And